

NSLDS User Documentation



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Executive Summary

The NSLDS User Documentation (Deliverable 010) contains instructions on how to use the Web to perform the full range of NSLDS functions. The User Documentation's individual chapters contain the following material:

- **Chapter 1**—Discusses the NSLDS system architecture and logical data model, and summarizes each Title IV aid function performed by NSLDS.
- **Chapter 2**—Discusses user and system security, resource management, and customer support resources.
- **Chapter 3**—Explains the new Web Access capabilities, and discusses the Help menu and the areas devoted to Messages for the user community, Financial Aid, and Organization.
- **Chapter 4**—Explains how to conduct ad hoc research using the NSLDS database. Also lists all database entities and their attributes, the primary and foreign keys that connect attributes in different tables, and the indexes that allow the construction of efficient queries.
- **Chapter 5**—Explains how to use the Query Maintenance Facility, an ad hoc query tool, to select, sort, group, and report NSLDS data.
- **Chapter 6**—Describes the reports and extracts function.
- **Chapter 7**—Explains how to download a data file from the NSLDS mainframe to an individual PC or workstation.
- **Chapter 8**—Explains how to use the Report Management Distribution System to view reports before routing them to a final destination.
- **Chapter 9**—Lists NSLDS acronyms and definitions.
- **Chapter 10**—Lists NSLDS codes and IDs, including Validation Translation table and lookup IDs, loan types, deferment types, and codes for guaranty agencies.

What's New with NSLDS

This section lists important changes in the NSLDS since the last release of the User Documentation:

- **Chapter 3, Web Access**—This chapter was rewritten. Some new functions highlights are:
 - On the Logon page, Sign-Up Information is an easy-to-access link.
 - On the Main Menu page, Organization Search can begin here using the search criteria boxes.
 - In the Aid section on the Overpayment History page, you access the new Add Overpayment page or the new Update Overpayment page.
 - In the Org Section on the Organization Search page, new search filter criteria options are available for fine-tuning your search. On the Organization Contact Detail page, you can delete Organization Contact Details that are unwanted.
 - Also in the Org Section, the Cohort Default Rate History List page allows you to view a history of the default rates for the selected organization and request Loan Details.
 - On the Reports page, the new LRDR generates the loan records that make up the requested Cohort Default Rate.
 - Transfer Monitoring is a new section. This process allows NSLDS to tell school users when financial aid information changes on a particular student.
 - Netscape users can print Help pages. Click the P icon on the desired Help page.
 - Throughout the Web site, there are more return arrows on Web pages to facilitate navigation.
- **Chapter 4, TSO, Database Research and Ad Hoc Queries**—The Entity/Attribute table is updated.
 - The entities Financ_Prof and Prescrn_Rslt_Loan have several attributes added.
 - Transfer Monitoring entities are added. They are:
 - ◆ TM_ALRT_RUN_HIS
 - ◆ TM_EVT
 - ◆ TM_INFRM_RUN_ERR
 - ◆ TM_INFRM_RUN_HIS
 - ◆ TM_SCH_XFER_PROF

- ◆ TM_STU
- ◆ TM_STU_ALRT
- ◆ TM_STU_ALRT_LOAN
- ◆ TM_STU_ALRT_NM
- ◆ TM_STU_ALRT_OVRPMT
- ◆ TM_STU_ALRT_PELL

- **Chapter 6, Reports and Extracts**—Loan Record Detail Report (LRDR) extract file has been added.
- **Chapter 10, Codes and IDs**—The NSLDS Validation Translation Table and Lookup IDs table had some obsolete Type Names and IDs removed.



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